



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

Regulatory Branch

Dear Reader:

In concert with Washington State and as a member of the Washington State Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program Steering Committee, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) is pleased to present to you the *Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines (ISPG)*. The Corps anticipates that the *ISPG* will be a beneficial tool for both the Corps Regulatory Branch and the Corps Civil Works Program. The Corps will be using the *ISPG* in several ways as described below:

The Corps Regulatory Branch will be using the *ISPG* as a tool to assist its staff in the review and evaluation of activities such as stream restoration projects, instream mitigation projects, and riverine bank stabilization projects.

In addition, *ISPG* has been included as a "term and condition" by the National Marine Fisheries Service in the recently issued "Biological Opinion on Corps of Engineers (Regulatory Branch) Programmatic Consultation for Permit Issuance for Four (4) Categories of Fish Passage Restoration Activities in Washington State," dated October 29, 2001. For proposed fish passage barrier removal projects, unavoidable bank stabilization activities are approved if the proponent documents the rationale for the design based on the *ISPG*.

The Corps Civil Works Program sees *ISPG* as an excellent addition to the selection of tools used when designing stream restoration, mitigation, and/or bank stabilization activities. However, the application of these guidelines may not be suitable for all Corps Civil Works projects; i.e., high-risk projects that protect significant infrastructure. In these situations, *ISPG* principles may be considered when practicable for a specific site.

In conclusion, the Corps supports *ISPG* and future Aquatic Habitat Guidelines as valuable methods for the State salmon recovery strategy and as an important effort in moving towards better predictability in decisionmaking for the regulatory arena. For more information on the Corps role in the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines process, contact Ms. Cindy Barger at (206) 764-5526. For more information on the Corps application of *ISPG* in Civil Works projects, contact Mr. Michael Scuderi at (206) 764-7205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph H. Graves", is positioned above the printed name.

Ralph H. Graves
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer




Dear Reader:

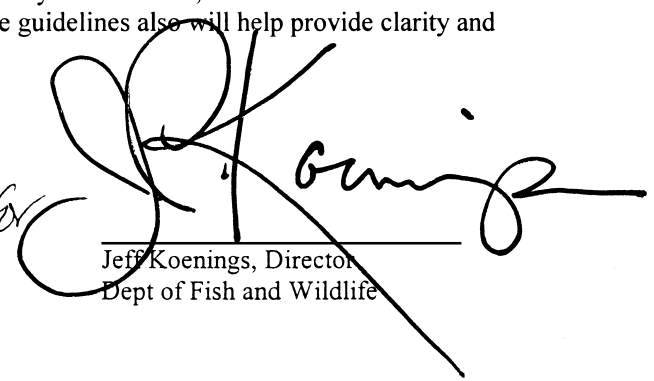
We, the chief executive officers of the Washington state departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Transportation, are pleased to present to you the *Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines*. The *ISPG* is the first in a series of Aquatic Habitat Guidelines (AHG). The AHG provide guidance for an integrated approach to protecting and restoring marine, freshwater, and riparian habitat. This integrated approach is necessary to allow consistency in regulatory interpretations, assist with permit streamlining, and ensure that habitat-related projects are based on best available science. The *ISPG* will enable our agencies and the people of Washington to better manage and care for our aquatic habitats and resources, including our endangered salmon species. The *ISPG* was developed using best available science and extensive peer review. For additional information, please visit the project Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/hab/ahg/>

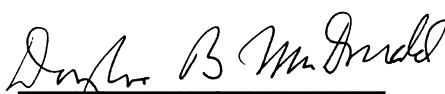
In adopting the *ISPG*, each of our agencies will be using it in various ways, for example:

- At the Department of Ecology, the *ISPG* will be incorporated into the Shoreline Management Guidebook to help implement the Shoreline Management. Additionally, the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines will be incorporated into the state's Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint-Source Pollution.
- At the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the *ISPG* will serve as a tool to help local watershed groups, lead entities, and agency biologists plan and implement salmon recovery projects that are based on good science. *ISPG* will also serve as best available science and technical guidance in the review of Hydraulic Project Approval applications for streambank protection projects.
- At the Department of Transportation, the *ISPG* will help design and implement mitigation for streambank effects related to construction and maintenance projects, and promote and enhance salmon and watershed recovery work as a part of transportation facility design and construction statewide.

The *ISPG* is an important part of our state's salmon recovery strategy. The *ISPG* and future releases in the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines series will help us be more efficient and effective as we work toward a healthy environment, vibrant communities and a strong economy. The *ISPG* and future guidelines also will help provide clarity and predictability in decision-making.


Linda Hoffman
Deputy Director for
Tom Fitzsimmons, Director
Dept of Ecology


Jeff Koenings, Director
Dept of Fish and Wildlife


Douglas B. MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation